

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These remarks are responsive to the Office Action of April 6, 2007. This reply is being timely filed with a Request for Continued Examination, a request for a two month extension of time and the payment of the required fee.

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application and stand rejected. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7 - 8, 10, 13 and 15 - 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hohlbein (US 6,088,870) in view of Halm (US 5,052,071). Claims 1 - 3, 6, 10 -12, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Heymann et al. (US 2,154,846) in view of Halm. Claims 9 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hohlbein and Halm. Claims 8 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hohlbein, Halm and Urbush.

Claims 1, 6, 7 and 10 are amended. Amended claims 1 and 10 each require a toothbrush with a handle having a longitudinal axis whereby flexure of the head under compression or expansion along the longitudinal axis causes a lateral movement of the fingers relative to the longitudinal axis. The Applicant respectfully submits that none of the cited references (Hohlbein, Halm, Heyman or Urbush) discloses, teaches or suggests a toothbrush whereby flexure of the head under compression or expansion along the longitudinal axis causes a lateral movement of the fingers relative to the longitudinal axis.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 10 are allowable as written. Claims 2 - 9 depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 1 and are therefore allowable. Claims 11 - 17 depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 10 and are therefore allowable.

Claims 6 and 7 are also currently amended. Claim 6 has been amended to require the toothbrush of claim 1 wherein the fingers include adjacent fingers that are connected by off-center ribs on one side of the adjacent fingers whereby all fingers connected by the ribs move in the same lateral direction when the head is

flexed along the longitudinal axis. Support for this amendment can be found at least in Figs. 6 and 7 of the present application. None of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests a toothbrush wherein the fingers include adjacent fingers that are connected by off-center ribs on one side of the adjacent fingers whereby all fingers connected by the ribs move in the same lateral direction when the head is flexed along the longitudinal axis. The Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 6 is allowable for at least the foregoing additional reason.

Claim 7 has been amended to require the toothbrush of claim 1 wherein the fingers include adjacent fingers that are connected by off-center ribs on opposite sides of the adjacent fingers whereby the adjacent fingers move in opposite lateral directions when the head is flexed along the longitudinal axis. Support for this amendment may be found at least in Fig. 8 of the present application. None of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests a toothbrush wherein the fingers include adjacent fingers that are connected by off-center ribs on opposite sides of the adjacent fingers whereby the adjacent fingers move in opposite lateral directions when the head is flexed along the longitudinal axis. The Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 7 is allowable for at least the foregoing additional reason.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the pending claims is requested. The Applicant also requests an examiner interview to discuss this response.

If any additional fees are required or if an overpayment has been made, the Commissioner is authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. 03-2455.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Hohlbein



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